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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

PIERRE JEANVOINE ET AL

: EXAMINER: S. VINCENT

SERIAL NO: 09/381,631

:

FILED: MARCH 1, 2000

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1731

CPA FILED: MAY 23, 2002

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FOR: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR MELTING AND REFINING MATERIALS
CAPABLE OF BEING VITRIFIED

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AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action dated August 14, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

38. (Twice amended) Process of manufacturing glass from vitrifiable materials comprising a step of supplying all or part of the thermal energy necessary for melting vitrifiable materials by injecting a combustible mixture comprising at least one fuel and at least one oxidizer gas, or gaseous products resulting from combustion of the combustible mixture, below the level of the mass of said vitrifiable materials, and melting said vitrifiable

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